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AMERICAN MOTHERS OF NATIONAL DEFENDERS



~~Organized July 13, 1918~~

Organized Feb. 13, 1918

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American Mothers of National Defenders

Officers and Trustees

| | |
|-----------------------|----------------|
| Mrs. A. H. Strickland | President |
| Mrs. A. E. Singleton | Vice-President |
| Mrs. P. B. Pritchett | Secretary |
| Mrs. L. J. Rogers | Treasurer |
| Mrs. R. J. Lawrence | Historian |
| Mrs. L. K. Perry | Registrar |
| Mrs. C. G. Stovall | 1 Year |
| Mrs. C. C. Bates | 2 Years |
| Mrs. C. M. Franklin | 3 Years |



SEP. 13 1918

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CONSTITUTIONS AND BY-LAWS

—OF THE—

AMERICAN MOTHER'S OF NATIONAL DEFENDERS

Adopted March 12, 1918

ARTICLE ONE—NAME

This organization shall be known as American Mothers of National Defenders.

ARTICLE TWO—OBJECT

The object shall be the organization of duly constituted members consisting of mothers, wives, sisters and daughters of soldiers and sailors who served under the flag of the United States during the world wide war which we entered 4-6-1917. In order that we may (1) erect suitable monuments and historical tablets commemorative of heroes and heroic actions, (2) encourage studies and reasearches into the cause of the war, effects and modes of warfare: (3) obtain and preserve a record of the service of each individual soldier and sailor connected with our chapter: (4) promote constructive patriotism and historical knowledge of our country; (5) encourage and extend mutual sympathy to those in breavement through loss of relatives in the war; (6)

and in general to promote and expanded degree of mutual service among our members through cooperation, mutual suggestions, conferences and public meetings.

ARTICLE THREE—MEMBERSHIP

Duly legalized relatives of American citizens who fought under the United States and allied flags are eligible to membership, provided adequate proof of service and honorable discharge is given of same. The applicant must be over 18 years of age, and an American citizen. The name of applicant must be presented to the chapter, voted on and accepted by 3-4 of members present; application blank will be given them to fill out, return to the registrar, to be examined and signed by the committee on credentials.

Section Two(of article three)

Only members of the Caucasian race are eligible for membership.

ARTICLE FOUR—OFFICERS

The officers shall consist of President, Vice-Pres. Secretary, Treasurer, Historian and Registrar, who shall be elected at the regular meeting in February: Installation to take place a month following.

Section Two (of article four) Trustees

At the annual meeting in February there shall also be three members at large elected for a term of three years (except first two, who shall be elected for one, and two years thus having one to expire and one to elect thereafter) these together with the officers shall form a board of trustees, who shall have power to fill vacancies on the board that occur between annual meetings, with other duties collective and individually that pertain to similiar officers in other organizations.

ARTICLE FIVE—DUES

A membership fee of 50cts. shall accompany application paper; same to be refunded if applicant cannot qualify for membership half of fee to go into headquarters. Annual dues of 50 cts. shall be paid on or before, date of, and prior to , annual election of officers under penalty of automatic suspension.

Section Two (of article five)

Restoration

Members under suspension for non-payment of dues are retsored to full membership on payment of same.

BY-LAWS

1—A majority of votes shall be necessary to pass any motion.

2—The President may not vote except in case of tie.

3—No member is entitled to vote who is not in good standing.

4—Members may be suspended or expelled for any conduct unbecoming a member of this chapter. Written charges preferred a month prior to hearing of such in regular meeting—copy of same having been sent to accused that they may have the benefit of defense.

5—Any member under suspension (for three years automatically loses membership (except for non-payment of dues)).

6—The acceptance or expulsion of any member shall require 3-4 vote of the members present.

7—The president shall have the right to veto any vote of chapter, except the vote on membership.

8—To pass a vote over the presidents veto shall require 4-5 vote of members present, and notice of such vote shall be given a month prior to action, unless such vote be taken at the meeting veto was exercised.

9—A quorum to transact any business shall consist of the president or vice president, the secretary or treasurer and

five other members.

10—All private and public meetings must be held in a parliamentary manner and in case of dispute Palmers rules shall prevail.

11—All ballots for membership, suspension or expulsion or the election of officers shall be written and cast in secret, nor shall any member be questioned regarding the character of their vote.

12—The colors shall be same as used on United States Flag.

13—Death emblem shall be a gold star.

13—Song for chapter—God Save, Keep, Hold our Men.”

15—Name of chapter must be geographical.

16—No member may speak on any subject more than twice.

17—The constitution and by-laws may be amended by 3-4 members present, a months notice having been given.

18—Application blank as appended.

Adopted March 12, 1918.

APPLICATION BLANK

To the officers and members of American Mothers of National Defenders, Chapter No. 1 located at Union Springs, Alabama.

I, the undersigned, respectfully petition to become a member of the American Mothers of National Defenders. I hereby certify that I bear the relationship of ----- to ----- who is serving, or served, in the world wide war as private or officer ----- in the ----- if died or discharged, give time of service ----- . In making application to this chapter I state (1) that I am actuated by patriotic motives, (2) that I do so in order to aid in carrying out the purpose for which this chapter was created (3) that I will cheerfully pay all just dues, unless prevented by financial inability, (4) that I will conform to the rules, regulations, constitutions and by-laws of this chapter: realizing that harmony is the strength and support of institutions, especially those of a patriotic nature I do hereby promise obedience to the expressed wish of the majority.

I still further promise that I will be loyal to the constitution of the United States and to its laws, that I will endeavor to promote loyalty in this order. in my home and wherever I may be; that in time of war I will refrain from all

criticism of my country that might encourage dissatisfaction disloyalty or resistance to organized authority: and I heartily agree to abide by same.

Signature of applicant -----

Recommended by -----

We, the committee on credentials find the above applicant worthy of membership in our chapter.

Registrar -----

Clipping from The Montgomery Journal March 3, 1918. Montgomery, Ala.

“WAR MOTHERS ORGANIZED IN BULLOCK COUNTY

Over in Union Springs, Mrs. A. H. Strickland has originated something that will strike a responsive cord among patriotic people-the “American Mothers of National Defenders”. She proposes to make of it a national order as far reaching in its membership as the Daughters of the American Revolution. Union Springs her home city, has responded with a charter membership of thirty and interest and appreciation that promises more members drawn from among the mothers sitters and wives of soldiers. The idea which originated in that sympathetic com-

munity of Alabama, out of the abundance of love and patriotism which exists there has been commended widely and promises to be adopted throughout America. An organizer is expected also to take up the work in Montgomery within a few days.

Already the mother chapter has received encouraging commendation from many quarters. Governor Henderson showed his approval in a letter to the author of the chapter in which he expressed the opinion that the organization will be an appropriate banding together of these who have the deepest of sympathetic feeling between them.

Women who have sent their men to the front. Other prominent men who favor the stimulation of patriotic ideals have been as enthusiastic in their approval of an organization of this character

Governor Henderson's letter, expressing his opinion of the plan was as follows:

Montgomery, Ala., Feb. 15, 1918.

Mrs. A. H. Strickland,
Union Springs, Ala.,

Dear Mrs. Strickland:

I am in receipt of yours of the 15th advising me of an organization originated and formed at Union Springs, which you wish to make nation wide. I see nothing in this organization that would conflict with any of the war activities that have been heretofore launched or likely to be organized hereafter. I can, however, see much benefit to be derived from an association of those who have sent their husbands and sons to the front to defend what is dearest to mankind-home and country. There is more of a sympathetic feeling between those who have sons and husbands at the front than can be brought about in any other way, and it appears to me that banding together the women of the country who are making this sacrifice will strengthen patriotism and create a stronger desire for service. The proposed organization has my approval and believe it can easily be made state wide.

Yours very truly,

Chas. Henderson, Governor.

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